

CD 2006 --



Thursday, September 28, 2006  
12:10 pm, Walter Hall

University of Toronto Faculty of Music  
Thursdays at Noon  
presents



## JESSICA JOHNSON AND MIDORI KOGA, DUO PIANO

### Visions de l'amen

Olivier Messiaen

#### I. Amen de la Création

Amen of Creation. Amen, so be it! "God said, let there be light! And there was light!"  
(Book of Genesis)

#### II. Amen des étoiles, de la planète, à l'anneau

Amen of the stars, and of the ringed planet. A brutal and savage dance. Violently spinning stars, suns and Saturn with its multicolored rings. God summons them and they say: "Amen, here we are!" (Book of Baruch)

#### III. Amen de l'agonie de Jésus

Jesus suffers and weeps. "My Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink of it, thy will be done." (Gospel according to Saint Matthew)

#### IV. Amen du désir

Desire understood in its highest spiritual sense. Thus, the angel named the prophet Daniel: "Man of Desire".

#### V. Amen des anges, des saints, du chant des oiseaux

Song of the Purity of the Saints: Amen, the exultant singing of the birds: Amen.  
The angels prostrate themselves before the throne: Amen.

#### VI. Amen du Jugement

Three icy notes, like the bells of evidence. Verily, I say unto thee, Amen.  
"Depart from me, ye cursed! (Gospel according to Saint Matthew)

#### VII. Amen de la Consommation

Consummation, Paradise. The life of the glorious body in chimes of light. Then "from transparency to transparency". Sapphire, emerald, topaz, hyacinth, amethyst, the entire rainbow of precious stones of the Apocalypse, dancing, coloring, shocking, resounding, and perfuming the Light of Life.

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*Next on Thursdays at Noon*

Katherine Rapoport, viola; Peter Stoll, clarinet; John Kruspe, piano  
Bruch's Concerto for Viola and Clarinet, and Swedish folksong  
arrangements for viola and clarinet.

October 5, 2006

## Biographies

**Jessica Johnson** serves on the piano faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison as Assistant Professor of Piano and Director of Graduate Studies in Piano Pedagogy. In 2006, she was the recipient of UW-Madison's Emily Steiger Distinguished Teaching Award. Johnson has formerly been on the faculties of Augustana College (Illinois), Sterling College, and the Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. She received the MM in Piano Performance and DMA in Piano Performance and Pedagogy from the University of Michigan and the BM in Piano Performance, *magna cum laude*, from East Carolina University.

In addition to her love for the standard keyboard repertoire, Johnson frequently commissions and programs contemporary solo and chamber works. She regularly performs with *Sole Nero*, a piano and percussion duo with Anthony Di Sanza, percussion. The duo recently released a CD titled *Musica Per Due* on Equilibrium Recordings that features three works composed specifically for *Sole Nero* by composers Dave Hollinden, Joseph Koykkar, and Joel Naumann. In 2005, the group held a residency at the Shenyang Conservatory of Music in Shenyang, China and the Chinese Conservatory of Music in Beijing, China.

An active clinician, Johnson has given workshops and presentations at the World Piano Pedagogy Conference, the European Piano Teachers Association International Conference, MTNA National Conferences, as well as held residencies at major universities and colleges throughout the United States and in China, Canada and Portugal. Johnson has articles published in *American Music Teacher*, *Keyboard Companion*, *Piano Pedagogy Forum* and *Piano Adventures Teacher Newsletter*.

Pianist **Midori Koga** has been featured as soloist, chamber musician and accompanist throughout the world, including appearances at the Mozart Saal and Wiener Saal in Salzburg, Austria, the Al Fresno New Music Festival, the ProMozart Society of Detroit, the World Saxophone Congress in Valencia, Spain, the Ann Arbor International Computer Music Festival, and the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-lake, Ontario. Koga is a prize-winner in national competitions including the Concours de Musique du Canada, and the National Graduate Artist Competition at St. Mary's College of Notre Dame in Indiana.

An advocate of 20th and 21st century music, Koga commissions, performs and records with the new music ensemble QUORUM, whose first CD, *Cold Water, Dry Stone... The Music of Evan Chambers*, was released by the Albany label in January of 2001. The ensemble has performed throughout the U.S. including a highly acclaimed debut in New York's Merkin Hall, and has held residencies at the Interlochen Center for the Arts, the John Donald Robb Composers' Symposium in New Mexico, the Akron New Music Festival, New Music Tampa, and with the Cleveland Composers Forum. QUORUM looks forward to making its Canadian debut in Toronto in January of 2007 on the Faculty Artist Series.

Active also as clinician, Koga has presented invited papers at the World Piano Pedagogy Conference, the Music Teachers' National Association (MTNA) National Conference, and the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy. She has been published numerous times in the journal, *American Music Teacher*; the article *Music Making and Wellness Project: The Positive Effects of Music-Making on the Health and Well-being of Seniors* was recipient of the 2001 National Article of the Year Award presented by the MTNA.

Koga was appointed in the Fall of 2004 as Associate Professor of Piano, and is Head of the new Mus.M. in piano pedagogy degree program at the University of Toronto.